than thrillers with crime and sex, little is displayed worth viewing by Doordarshan especially for children;

(b) what percentage of coverage for children exhibits on DD is given on national channels; and

(c) what special efforts are being made to introduce more children programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati have intimated that no cheap thrillers with sex or crime are telecast on Doordarshan. Doordarshan previews all its programmes before telecast to ensure that they are suitable for family viewing and conform to the provisions of Broadcast and Advertisement Codes.

(b) and (c) Approximately 3.5% of the coverage on National Network relates to children's programme. A number of programmes for children are telecast by Doordarshan. Seven programmes per week on DD-1 and 20—30 programmes on DD-2 are presently being telecast. Regional Kendras also telecast children's programmes twice/thrice a week. On important occasions, special programmes for children are telecast both on the National and Regional Network. Special programmes are also telecast every year during summer vacations.

Request of Asiatic Society for access to President's Archives, Moscow

*174. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on a request from the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, his Ministry showed reluctance to approach the Government of Russian Federation to make access of the researchers of the Asiatic Society to KGB and the President's Archives, Moscow; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Asiatic Society, Calcutta, addressed a letter dated 15 November 1996 to the Minister of External Affairs requesting that an approach be made to the Government of the Russian Federation to permit access by its scholars to "the President's Archive, Archive of Foreign Security Service and the Archives of Army General Staff". In response it was conveyed to the Asiatic Society on 26 November 1996 that the archives to which access was being sought were essentially intelligence and security related archives which have not been declassified. Asiatic Society, Calcutta, was advised to continue to make efforts to obtain information on Indo-Russian relations through its counterpart organisation, the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow.

Compensation to World Tel by Doordarshan

*175. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has been asked by arbitrators to pay World Tel $ 7 million in compensation in a dispute over the telecast of the World Cup in 1996; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The award is being examined.

Enhancement of Postal Charges

*176. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total additional revenue from expected to be collected on an annual

basis from the recent enhancement of postal charges;

(b) the proportion of this additional burden likely to be placed on economically disadvantaged sections; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to supply at subsidised rates post cards and inland letters to low-income groups through the public distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The total additional revenue expected to be collected in a financial year from the recent enhancement of postal charges effective from 31st August, 1998 is Rs. 272 crores.

(b) The impact of revision of tariff in respect of 8 Postal Services, namely, Competition Post Card, Letter Cards, Letters, Parcels, Registration, Insurance, Acknowledgement and Money Order Form is likely to be minimal on economically disadvantaged sections as no tariff revision has been effected in the case of Post Cards and in the rate of Money Order commission which are generally used by them. Even in respect of the 8 Postal Services, the revision of tariff has been marginal in order to partly meet the increased cost of operations of various services requiring considerable subsidy from the General Budget.

(c) No, Sir.

Undertaking from Private Telecom Operators

*177. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Office has asked the department of Telecommunications to take undertakings from private telecom operators who have defaulted in paying licence fee for cellular or basic service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its effect on private telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Alternate Route for Kailash-Mansarover Yatra

*178. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of opening an alternate route for Kilash Mansarovar Yatra in view of the recent mishap resulting in tragic death of about 200 persons at Malpa en-route to Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted and with what results; and

(c) whether Government will also take into consideration the old traditional route through Tunjaun pass in Garhwal Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) On August 18, 1998 205 people, Including 60 yatris of the 12th batch of the Kallash Mansarovar Yatra were killed in a landslide which engulfed Malpa village in Pithoragarh District of Uttar Pradesh.

Taking into account the growing popularity of the Yatra amongst Hindu pilgrims, the constraints along the existing route, and requests from residents in the border areas, the Government have taken up, since 1993, proposals for an alternate/additional route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra with the Chinese side. We have proposed the Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh), and Demchok (Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir) routes. We have proposed these routes taking into account the existing logistical facilities which extend almost upto the border.